

**HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP**

PATENT, TRADEMARK &amp; COPYRIGHT ATTORNEYS

162 NORTH WOLFE ROAD  
SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA 94086  
TELEPHONE (408) 530-9700  
FACSIMILE (408) 530-9797

TO:

Examiner Wanda WalkerUSPTO

Facsimile:

(703) 872-9392

FROM:

Jonathan Owens**HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP**  
162 North Wolfe Road  
Sunnyvale, California 94086  
Telephone: (408) 530-9700  
Facsimile: (408) 530-9797Date: 9-9-03 Time: 11:20 (a.m.)/p.m.

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**MESSAGE:**

# HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

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FACSIMILE (408) 530-9797

March 27, 2003

VIA FACSIMILE

Examiner Wanda L. Walker  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Re: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/579,938  
Our File: TJW-00100

Dear Examiner Walker:

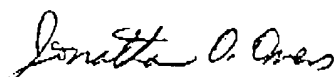
Thank you for taking the time to review this application. A first issue in this application is whether the cited references of U.S. Patent No. 5,673,817 to Mullen et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,842,606 to Devito, U.S. Patent No. 6,109,482 to Briggs and U.S. Patent No. 4,311,017 to Reed et al., which are all directed to beverage containers are proper § 102 references to claims directed to a paint storage container which includes a plurality of paint storage compartments among other things.

A second issue in this application is whether the cited references are analagous art to claims directed to a paint storage container. The Field of the Invention in this application reads "[t]he present invention generally relates to paint cans and containers. More specifically, the present invention relates to a reusable paint container for storing, mixing and dispensing paint products."

If you have any further questions, comments or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP



Jonathan O. Owens  
Reg. No. 37,902

JOO:drd

*Handwritten notes:*  
prior art  
structure  
prior art  
related art

*Handwritten notes:*  
Haverstock  
Owens